

KOHOLĀ CONNECTION

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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KOHOLĀ CONNECTION

Contributor Information

Editor Christine Brammer

Copy Editor Fiona Langenberger

Chief Writers Nanette Napoleon and
Christine Brammer

Graphic Design Design Asylum, Inc.

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Contact Us

E-mail hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov

Maui Office

Phone: 879.2818

Toll-free: 1.800.831.4888

O'ahu Office

Phone: 397.2651

Toll-free: 1.888.55.WHALE

Kaua'i Office

Phone: 246.2860

Kona Office

Phone: 327.3697

State Office

Phone: 587.0106

Visit the Sanctuary Education Center at

726 South Kīhei Road

Kīhei, Hawai'i

<http://hawaiiumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

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KĪHEI SITE CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

The beach front setting of the sanctuary headquarters in Kīhei, Maui, offers both scenic beauty and cultural significance. The site acts as a living classroom and provides many opportunities to enjoy the simple pleasures of nature watching. To further enhance the sanctuary's programs, a new multipurpose center was recently built on the Kīhei property. The building is nearing completion and should be available for use in early 2009. This new building complements the existing "landmark" blue office building and mural-painted education center. It will provide expanded facilities for research and education programs and provide a venue for other activities that promote marine conservation. The third phase of construction will begin in December 2008.

Long-term plans for renovation at the Kīhei site include developing a campus that will integrate all three buildings through an open outdoor plaza at the west end of the current parking lot. The blue office building will be renovated to maximize its floor plan and the first floor will become a visitor center. New exhibits with more interactive and visitor-friendly educational tools will be developed while spectacular views of sanctuary waters will still be maintained. There are also plans to remodel the current education center into the main office space for staff. If you're on Maui, stop by and see the site and all the exciting changes that are taking place!

OCEAN AWARENESS TRAINING

Environmental organizations on Maui once again joined forces to offer a free Ocean Awareness Training certification course to the community and commercial marine tour operators. Participants complete six class sessions and one field day to receive a C.O.R.A.L. (care of our Culture, Ocean, Reefs and Animal Life) certification card. Nominated for the 2007 & 2008 Living Reef Award, this training course provides a foundational knowledge base for those employed in the marine recreation industry, for community volunteers, or for anyone who wants to learn more about Hawai'i's marine environment. This special training is held twice per year and topics range from detailed lectures on humpback whales and

NEWS SPLASH!

marine mammals to lessons on Hawaiian culture and oceanography. In November, environmental organizations on O'ahu will also be offering Ocean Awareness Training. See the events calendar for more information or visit the sanctuary's Web site.

NEW "SCIENCE AT THE BEACH" STUDENT WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED ON KAUA'I

A new series of field-based student workshops are being conducted on Kaua'i by Kaua'i Programs Coordinator Jean Nishida Souza. The workshops feature a number of hands-on activities that promote ocean literacy and ocean stewardship. The activity sessions are conducted by subject matter experts and trained sanctuary volunteers. Sessions have included ocean safety, sand analysis, ocean and reef etiquette, water quality analysis, ocean art, marine mammal conservation, and more. Workshops are conducted at various beach parks. For more information, or to schedule a workshop, please call the Kaua'i sanctuary office. Venues for the workshop have included Poipu Beach Park and Hanamaulu Beach Park. Please call the Kaua'i sanctuary office for more information or to schedule your classes or youth group.

STUDENTS TAKE PART IN "SCIENCE DAY AT SEA"

Students from Maui, Kaua'i, Kona and Hilo were provided with a unique education opportunity on-board a Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) America cruise ship, the *Pride of America* in a week-long program that took place at each port of call during a seven day cruise in October. At each port, approximately 75 students boarded the *Pride of America* to participate in Science Day at Sea. The program was a partnership with NCL America, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) and NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, Sea Life Park, Hawai'i Preparatory Academy, and Maui Ocean Center.

The *Pride of America* cruise ship, serving as a floating classroom, allowed the students to see first hand how a "city at sea" operates. The inaugural Science Day at Sea program also offered lessons on humpback whales, plankton and green sea turtles, which included an up-close encounter with a group of young green sea turtles. Six turtles were onboard as part of a research effort led by NOAA



PIFSC and Sea Life Park. Since 2006, NOAA PIFSC and Sea Life Park have released more than 61 turtles from NCL America cruise ships to learn more about the life and travel patterns of young turtles in the open ocean. The turtles are outfitted with satellite transmitters that allow researchers to receive information about their movements and behavioral patterns in their oceanic habitat.

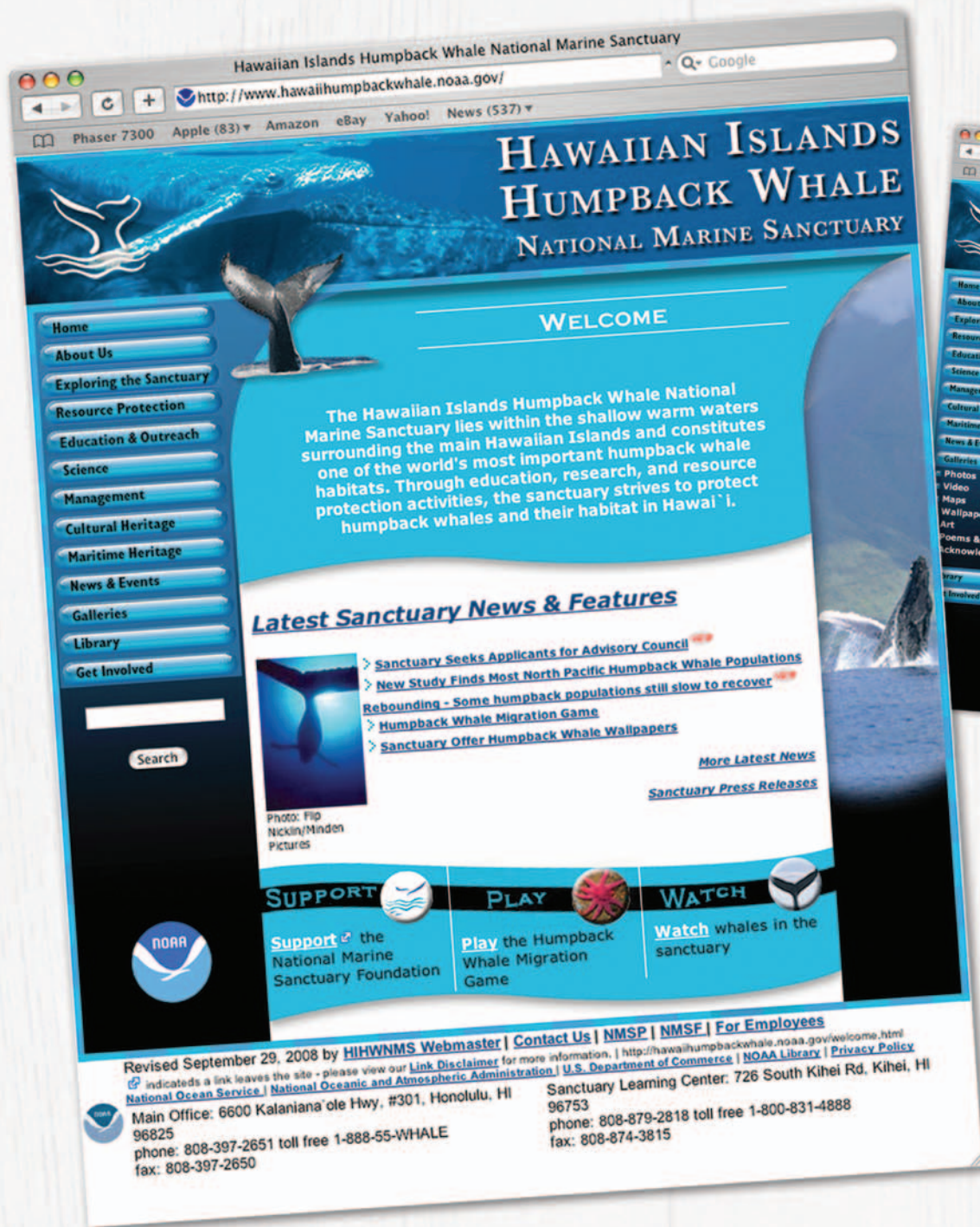
MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

The sanctuary is currently working on its next management plan review. During the 2002 management plan review, the sanctuary received overwhelming public support for the inclusion of additional resources to the sanctuary. The resources, which have been identified through a series of public processes in consultation with the sanctuary advisory council and the state of Hawai'i, are Hawaiian monk seals, other whales and dolphins, sea turtles, and maritime heritage resources. With continued federal, state, and community support, the sanctuary will continue its efforts to evaluate the inclusion of additional resources, further develop its existing programs, and assess its capacity to address emerging threats to humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i through its management plan review process. The next steps of the management plan review will include public scoping meetings and action plan development. The public will be able to find up-to-date information on the progress of the management plan review process on the sanctuary's Web site.



Extreme Makeover: Web Site Edition

hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov



If you haven't visited the sanctuary's Web site lately, you **MUST** go there soon! The site has had a significant makeover, in looks, style, content, and in user friendliness.

"We are excited that the new Web site has launched in time for whale season – we hope it will be used as a resource that will lead to the further protection of humpback whales and the marine environment. There is so much new information on the site and we will be updating the site regularly to keep the public informed about humpback whales and the sanctuary," said Christine Brammer, sanctuary webmaster.

The first thing you will notice is the new graphic layout, which is now in line with the National Marine Sanctuary System's Web site, where you can find information about, and links to, all 13 national marine sanctuaries and the one marine national monument, making it much easier to navigate between sites.

A new fun feature on the site is an interactive Humpback Whale Migration Board Game that is both easy to use and informational. As you (a humpback whale migrating from northern feeding grounds to southern mating grounds) move along the north-south migratory route, you learn about the obstacles that whales may encounter, such as large ships, small boats, oil spills and fishing nets. As you play the game you learn about humpback whales and their migratory journey.

The game is fun for children and adults.

By clicking on the **Photos & Videos** button you can browse hundreds of photos from throughout the National Marine Sanctuary System, and can even download some of these photos to use as wallpaper on your own computer.

From the **Library** section of the Web site, you can download scientific publications and maps as well as numerous free educational materials for both teachers and students, such as resource guides, coloring and activity books, and information sheets.

The **Resource Protection** section is filled with information about potential threats to humpback whales, such as entanglement, vessel collisions, acoustic disturbance and more. Located here is also information about the laws and regulations that address these threats and how to report boat strikes, entanglement, harassment and other violations affecting the health and welfare of whales and other marine animals.

In the **News & Events** section there is a great calendar that lists a wide variety of public lectures, workshops, field trips, festivals, fairs, exhibitions, and statewide art, essay and poetry contests.

Also, don't miss the **Exploring the Sanctuary** section, where you can learn about the marine life that call the sanctuary home.

Check out the new Web site and find out how you can **get involved!** 🐋

